[*English*]

EXPORT OF SILK YARN TO CHINA

1484. Shri V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow export of silk yarn to China in the near future;

(b) if so. the type of silk yarn and the quantity likely to be exported; and

(c) the foreign exchange that would be earned from this export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF LEATHER AND LEATHER GOODS

1485. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the export of leather and leather goods are likely to decline sharply unless the pentachlorophenol (PCP) content in leather goods is reduced considerably; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) . (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken:—

(i) The use of Pentachlorophenol (PCP) in the country has been prohibited.

(ii) Testing facilities have been set up for estimating PCP content in leather.

(iii) Alternative preservatives viz., Thio - cyanomethylthi - obenzothiazole (TCMTB) and Parachlorometacresol (PCMC) have been identified as effective substitutes for PCP and the import duties on these chemicals have been substantially reduced to facilitiate wider use.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO JUTE DEVELOPMENT FUND

1486. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the Jute Development Fund since its inception. yearwise;

(b) the funds actually spent by the Jute Development Fund so far year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not fully utilising the allocated funds by the Jute Development Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

(c) The schemes under the Special Jute Development Fund are in various stages of implementation for which funds are released on demand after ensuring utilisation of previous releases. Funds have not been utilized to the expected levels especially in respect of schemes for the benefit of workers in the industry. The scheme for rehabilitation of labour in closed Mills could not be implemented since mills are not permitted to be officially closed and some mills are showing a tendency to close down and reopen at intervals. Funds for rehabilitation of labour retrenched due to modernisation have not been utilised since no package has been sanctioned to render any workers surplus. Thus training and bank finance scheme for surplus workers has remained a non-starter.